

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Storage/HH/IJC/Superior/index.shtml>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKE SUPERIOR OUTFLOW CONDITIONS

The International Lake Superior Board of Control, under the authority granted to it by the International Joint Commission, has set the Lake Superior outflow to 2,270 cubic meters per second (m^3/s) (80.2 thousand cubic feet per second (tcfs)) for the month of September. This is about $60 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (2.1 tcfs) greater than the flow specified by Plan 1977-A for the month. This extra flow is needed to allow repairs to the eight gates at the south end of the control structure at the head of the St. Marys Rapids. Workers have to raise these gates to the fully open position, one-at-a-time, to repair the seals located on the gate bottoms. These gate movements will only affect water conditions in the main rapids. There will be no change to the setting of Gate #1, which supplies water to the channel north of the Fishery Remedial Dike.

The September outflow will be released by discharging about $2,082 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (73.5 tcfs) through the three hydropower plants and passing most of the remaining flow through the control structure at the head of the St. Marys rapids.

The August water supplies to Lake Superior and Lakes Michigan-Huron were below average. This past month the level of Lake Superior remained constant, whereas it usually rises by 1 centimeter (cm) in August. Currently, the Lake Superior level is about 16 cm (6 inches) below its long-term average beginning of September level, but about 1 cm (1/2 inch) above the level recorded last year. The level of Lake Superior is now 20 cm (8 inches) above its chart datum level. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron declined by about its usual amount in August. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron is about 27 cm (11 inches) below its long-term average beginning of September level but about 28 cm (11 inches) above the level of a year ago. Lakes Michigan-Huron's level is now 30 cm (12 inches) above its chart datum level. The Board continues to monitor conditions both on Lake Superior and downstream and will advise the International Joint Commission accordingly on those conditions.

Brigadier General Steven R. Hawkins, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is the United States Board Member. Mr. Doug Cuthbert, of Environment Canada, is the Canadian Board Member.

For further information please contact Carl Woodruff as indicated above.

The Internet homepage at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/> provides access to additional information.